

In the reports at hand from New Orleans, the attempt is made apparently only to provide the addicts with their drug at a fair price and thus do away with the illicit drug peddler, who is, as stated above, the crux of the whole problem. Such a plan does not seem advisable on its face. There is nothing to prevent the addict securing as much additional dope from the illicit dealer as he can pay for. There is no promise of cure in any plan separated from hospital or institutional restraint and medical treatment. And if there is no immediate urge to definite cure, it is hard to see what has been accomplished but some more or less sentimental and ill-founded temporary relief for the addicts. Any successful method must go deeper than this.

The drugs most used in New York were the opium alkaloids and derivatives. These are too valuable to mankind and animalkind to be abolished from human and medical use. Not the physician, but the illicit drug purveyor, should be penalized and put out of business. Heroin can be spared and its manufacture prohibited. Drug addict clinics may give splendid results if institutional treatment and cure is the one end and consideration in their operation. Such clinics coupled with a determined administration of the present law, and relentless penalizing of illicit drug dealers, seems the best path of advance in the case of this serious problem. There is no occasion for undue hysteria, however. The menace of drug addiction may be as great a social evil as some claim for it. We have yet to see authoritative proofs of a greater distribution than that noted above by the Public Health Service.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

In the January number the Journal will open a Hospital Service Section. In each issue of the Journal during 1920 we will present hospital hints and brief timely articles and practical suggestions on construction, administration and the scientific and community service that hospitals should render.

This constructive service of the Journal, beginning with the New Year, will be helpful to the hospitals, beneficial to the patients and public and valuable to every ethical member of the medical profession.

We have an intimate and abiding interest in promoting the welfare and enlarging the field of service of all the institutions of our State, large or small, that are worthy to be called hospitals.

Hospital improvement is essential to the progress of scientific medicine. The profession has realized for some time that some hospitals were not keeping step with the onward march and that others were not filling the functions of real hospitals. Few hospitals, however, are devoted to their defects and most are anxious and ready to remedy them.

The imperative need and the vast field for improvement in hospital service have impressed all who are giving this great subject thoughtful attention. We will endeavor, in a broad co-operative spirit, to supply a portion of this imperative need and fill a part of this vast field with concrete facts. The purpose of the Journal's Hospital

Service Section will be to make a practical contribution to hospital betterment by presenting the factors that must be combined to make progressive hospitals more efficient and serviceable.

JUSTICE VERSUS "SCIENCE."

Statements made by Justice Wilbur lauding the achievements of modern medicine have been hastily followed by a resentful reply from Peter V. Ross, the official guardian of Christian Science Publicity.

Mr. Ross demurs to all the conclusions of Justice Wilbur in reference to medical conquests and makes the amazing counter statement that during the influenza pandemic, "Christian Science quietly healed thousands who turned to it for help, while modern medicine stood by helpless, ignorant alike of the cause, cure and prevention of the malady."

Mr. Ross strangely accepts the medical testimony that an epidemic existed, and the medical diagnosis that it was influenza. His indefinite statement of thousands would be more conclusive if he offered definite morbidity and mortality statistics.

Who has the records on which he bases the statement of "healing thousands?"

Of course, "the healing" was done "quietly" and the records are quiescent. But Mr. Ross seems to forget that unless matter exists there could not have been anything the matter with these thousands.

Mr. Ross advances a new theory of immunity in attacking Justice Wilbur's position. "In his age," says Mr. Ross, "the American Indian lived by swamps and other breeding places of germs in blissful ignorance of their reputed deadliness and hence with complete immunity from their attacks. The Asiatic of today repeats the Indian experience. But when medical institutes acquaint him with the fancied danger of his ways of living, without affording him any adequate prevention or remedy, his troubles will begin, not however, because of germs, for he now grows fat on them, but through his newly acquired fear of them."

The absurd theory of complete immunity accompanying "blissful ignorance" was sadly shattered when little Peter playfully poked fire with a stick of dynamite.

Another astounding statement of Mr. Ross, that can only be explained on the basis of his blissful ignorance of sanitation, is "wholesome sanitation has no connection with medicine."

Mr. Ross becomes queerly facetious in referring to Luke, "the beloved physician," "standing at attention with his medicine chest," but not lending first aid.

Mr. Ross should tell such stories to the marines, to our soldiers of the world war, to the Red Cross forces who know the value of modern medicine. Mr. Ross doubtless claims that "Christian Science" quietly healed thousands of those who were wounded and sick in the war without any material means and by the same methods "demonstrated as effective during the 'Flu'."

There is no record of any of our fighting forces using or recommending Mrs. Eddy's "scientific"

remedy even for a boil. Her explanation, however, of a boil to a soldier who had one would either arouse his fighting blood or make him laugh until he burst it. "You say," Mrs. Eddy remarks, "a boil is painful, but that is impossible, for matter without mind is not painful. The boil simply manifests, through inflammation and swelling, a belief in pain, and this belief is called a boil."

Without any intention of following Mr. Ross through his theological and scriptural wanderings, his frequent repetition of "Heal the sick" as the main mission of Jesus leads us to remind Mr. Ross, that though firmly believing in the regular operation of natural laws, the scientific medical men do not deny the possibility of the supernatural, but wherever and whenever the natural laws have been suspended on exceptional occasions by Divine power, they have later resumed their regular course.

All those that were healed or raised from the dead by Jesus are now dead. Lazarus and the daughter of Jairus, the servant of the centurion and the widow's son, those sick of the palsy and the lepers. The withered hand that was healed is pulseless now, and the blind and dumb that were given sight and speech—see nor speak no more. And the man who was possessed of a legion of devils, that were driven out of him into the herd of swine, is no longer publishing in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him.

In reading the gospel account of this driving the legion of unclean spirits into the herd of swine, Mr. Ross must experience great difficulty in justifying this biblical reference to animal experimentation and exploitation for the sake of mankind. Here we find "a great herd of swine" peacefully feeding on the mountain side destroyed with great violence without an anesthetic and without consulting or remunerating the owners. This great herd was destroyed that one man might be relieved.

When the apostles were sent forth they were told not only to heal the sick, but they were also instructed to raise the dead and not to possess gold or silver nor money in their purses.

If the "Eddian Scientists" could demonstrate their skill as effectively in raising the dead as they do in raising funds the cemeteries would soon be depopulated.

CHEERFUL NONSENSE.

A little nonsense now and then is good for the best of doctors. It is peculiarly appropriate therefore, that our old friend the Los Angeles Times, should continue each week to furnish amusement for the public and ribald mirth for the doctors with its page entitled "Care of the Body." It is a pity that these gems cannot appear in Medical Pickwick or some medium where they would be available for the delectation of the medical fraternity of the entire country. Truly such engaging buffoonery and artless as well as science-less prattlings should have no limitations on their mirth-provoking excellencies. It is a pity that some small part of the general public is possibly not in sufficiently close touch with the march of the modern world to appreciate the delectable feast

here spread to their use. Mirth prolongs life and the countless years of human life which have been added to the fortunate readers of this "Care of the Body" department by its resistless incentives to laughter, certainly make it a valuable public health agency.

Space forbids that we should present all the good points so freely offered. The medical brethren of the south are to be congratulated on having so polished and accurate a writer as Harry Ellington Brook, N. D., to serve up to them their Sunday fun. It must be an inspiration to have an "N. D." in town. Sort of stimulating to the imagination. The letters could mean so many things.

For instance, recently we read that life has been shortened by civilization, starvation, foods, drugs and serums. Syphilization has doubtless been overlooked and the oracle does not explain how the concatenation of foods and starvation is effected. Then we read that oiling the skin keeps the body supple. The fountain of youth is not to be found in a bottle or in the carcass of an animal. High blood pressure is high gas pressure, due to fermentation of food in the colon. That is due to wrong eating. Today doctors, so we read, know more about diagnosis, but little more than formerly about causes and treatment. Verily, let not this man sit at the table of the wise, lest he should eat, and learn and our pleasure be gone.

Again we read that all pus appendices if left alone will drain down naturally through the bowel and heal themselves. What a lot of unnecessary work and bother we have been to! Moreover, doctors wish the return of the flu to make more business for themselves. If we did not know human nature and the human public so well, that might arouse resentment, but we know the reader reads to be amused and will not lay any serious intention up against the writer, the said N. D. We learn that the California anti-vivisection society discussed three "issues" in long-suffering Los Angeles, which three were these: 1. Determination to suppress vivisection in hospitals of religious organizations whose precepts forbid the killing of inoffensive animals. Must refer to Buddhism, as Judaism, Christianity and so-called western religious faiths are based on the very contrary. 2. Support of a bill in the Senate forbidding use of dogs in vivisection. Until we know just what is meant by dogs and vivisection, this is ambiguous. 3. Plans to circulate an initiative petition next January to stop vivisection in California. These worthy aims would be complemented and reach full fruition in an ordinance making it illegal to be ill or to die. Too bad the N. D. did not think of this too, but here is the suggestion for what it is worth.

N. D. also considers that "boards of health" should be called "disease boards," as "What do they teach about health?" Serums, candy and cigarettes caused far more disease than all the war casualties endured by our soldiers. We have wondered what did it. Here is the answer. Candy is worse than tobacco or alcohol, because it produces alcohol in the stomach and sours the blood. Our head whirls a little here and we wish N. D. had given the page and volume reference so we